

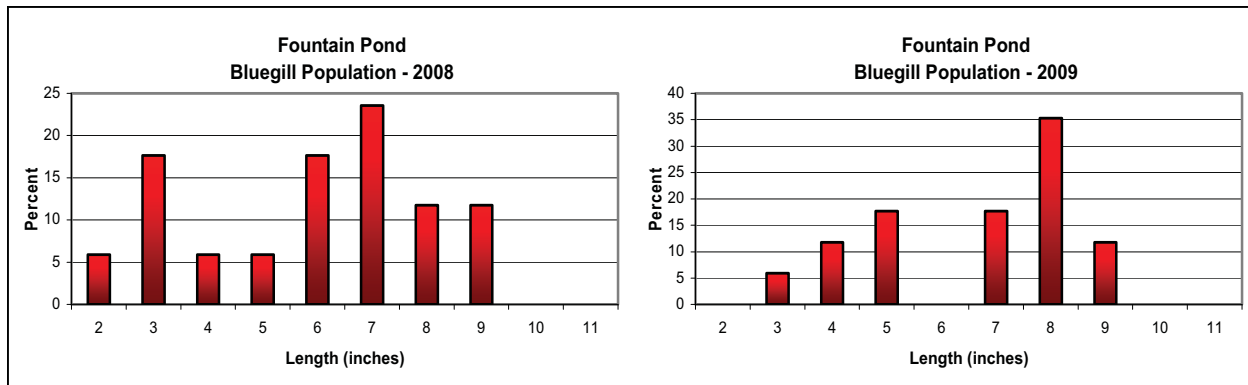


Figure 3. Comparison of the length distribution of bluegill collected from Fountain Pond in May 2008 and May 2009.

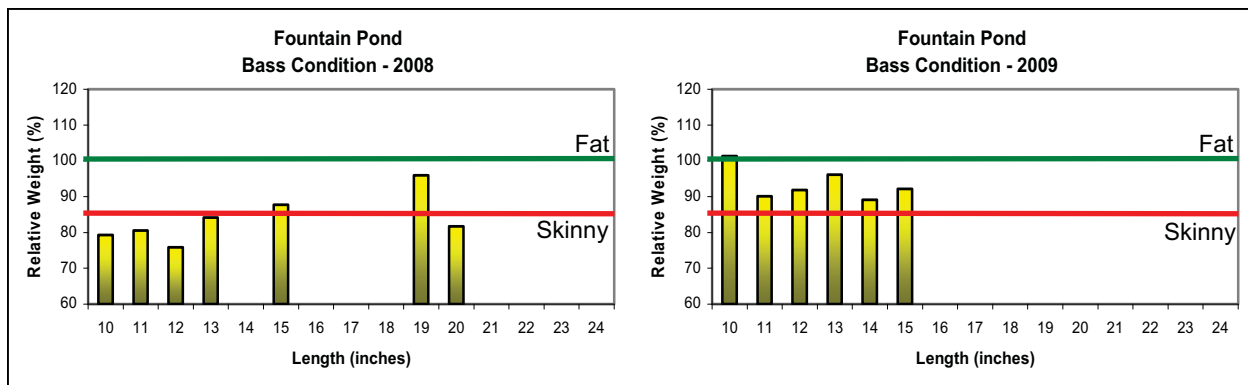


Figure 4. Relative weight distribution of adult largemouth bass collected from Fountain Pond in May 2008 and May 2009.



Fishery Assessment

The fishery in [Fountain Pond](#) was sampled with standard boat-mounted electrofishing equipment. The sample contained largemouth bass, mud cat, mixed bluegill, threadfin shad, and redear sunfish (shellcracker). Currently, largemouth bass and catfish are functioning as the primary predators in [Fountain Pond](#). The bluegill, shad, and shellcracker are the prey.

Threadfin shad have become an important component of the forage base in [Fountain Pond](#). We observed several different size groups, indicating a healthy population. Maintaining a healthy shad population will be important for [Fountain Pond](#) to continue producing quality and trophy size bass.

Largemouth bass ranging in size from 6 to 15 inches in total length were collected in moderate abundance. Several larger fish were seen during the electrofishing evaluation, but were unable to be netted. The length distribution of largemouth bass (Figure 2) reveals the presence of bass over a wide range of size classes.

This represents improvement from the previous year, most likely the result of improved bass harvest.

The average relative weight of adult bass in our most recent sample additionally reflects improvement from last year. This year's average relative weight was 92, as compared to last year, 83 (Figure 4).

Largemouth bass 14 inches and smaller represent the primary targets for harvest over the coming months. We harvested 36 pounds of bass during the evaluation.

Bluegill and shellcracker were collected ranging in size from 4 to 10 inches in total length. Figure 3 depicts the length distribution of the bluegill population. Mature adult bluegill were relatively scarce in the sample.

Overall, we characterize the fish community in [Fountain Pond](#) as bass-crowded. A more detailed explanation of bass-crowded ponds in general, and [Fountain Pond](#) in particular is located in the Current State of Balance section of this report.

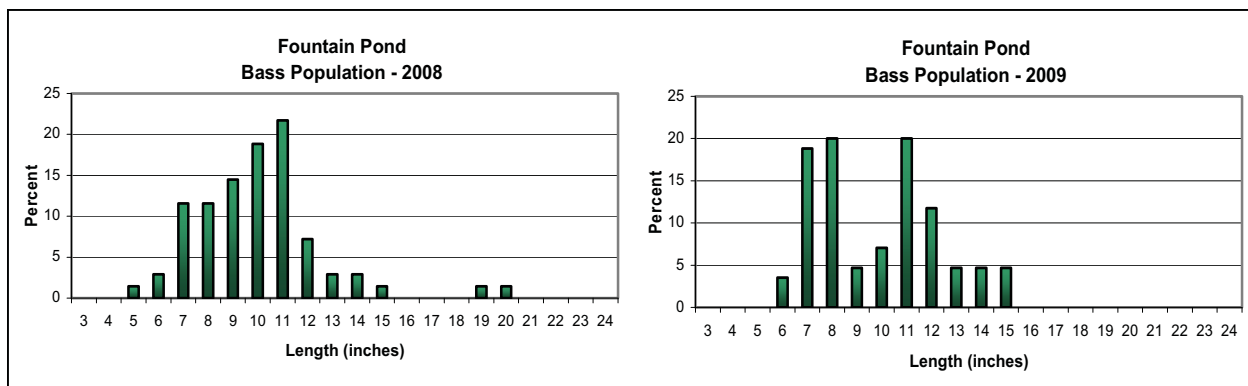


Figure 2. Comparison of the length distribution of bass collected in [Fountain Pond](#) in May 2008 and May 2009.